



# Christmas

## TREES

Midweek Advent at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
*A season of repentance, renewal, and preparation*


Midweek Advent 2 – December 11, 2024

## Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. More information about our church can be found in the narthex. We hope that you will join us again soon.

### For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Children's bulletins and worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil. 

If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at [elctempe.org/worship](http://elctempe.org/worship).

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit [elctempe.org](http://elctempe.org).

## Midweek Advent 2— December 11, 2024

### Christmas Trees: The Tree of Promise

In recent years there has been an explosion of companies that help you trace your family tree. You can go back a dozen generations, uncovering the history of your ancestors. Tracing your family tree allows you to learn more about where you came from...who you are.

St. Matthew's Gospel begins by tracing Jesus' family tree. Providing the genealogy of Jesus proves that he is true man, exactly what we needed our Savior to be to take our place. It also demonstrates God's grace, for in Jesus' family tree you will find individuals whose heinous sins are recorded in Scripture: murder, prostitution, etc. The Christ is not the enemy of sinners. He is our brother. Finally, Jesus' family tree shows that God keeps all his promises. God had promised multiple believers—Eve, Abraham, David—that the Savior would be one of their descendants.

This week, we look at a very different type of Christmas tree—the Tree of Promise. Christmas shows that what God says will happen happens. God promised he would become one of us to save us all. In the fullness of time, he did just that!

From the Tree of Promise we learn that God keeps every single promise he makes to us.



#### Connection card

*During the offering  
we ask that you  
complete an online  
connection card.*



# Worship at Close of Day

*Before the service we will sing a number of favorite songs, chosen by worshipers.*

## Preservice music

**From Heav'n Above**

Linda Moeller

## Opening hymn

**319 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring**

*Please stand.*

## Invocation and litany

Psalm 73

The grace of our + Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

**But as for me, my feet almost slipped out from under me.**

I almost lost my footing. I even envied the arrogant

**when I observed the peace of the wicked.**

They do not have the trouble common to people. They are not plagued along with the rest of mankind.

**Therefore pride is their necklace. They wear violence like clothing.**

When I tried to understand this, it was very troubling to me,

**until I went to the sanctuary of God. Then I understood their end.**

How quickly they come to ruin,

**completely destroyed by terrors!**

Yet I am always with you. You hold me by my right hand.

**With your guidance you lead me, and afterward, you will take me to glory.**

Who else is there for me in heaven?

**And besides you, I desire no one else on earth.**

My flesh and my heart fail,

**but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## Anthem (3:30 p.m.)

**From Heav'n Above**

arr. Linda Moeller

*"From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:*

*"To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth."*

*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new, a quiet chamber kept for you.*

*My heart for very joy must leap; my lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue that sweetest ancient cradle song:*

*Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth.*

## First Reading

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons."

<sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you."

<sup>4</sup> So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem.

Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, "Do you come in peace?"

<sup>5</sup> He said, "Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, "Certainly this is the LORD's anointed."

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

<sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Is that all of the young men?"

Jesse said, "There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes."

<sup>12</sup> He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, "Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one."

<sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 1:1,6,16-17**

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>6</sup> Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah...<sup>16</sup> Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, from whom Jesus was born (who is called Christ).

<sup>17</sup> So altogether there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian exile to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Matthew lists the full genealogy of Jesus in the first chapter of the book of Matthew. Verses 2-5 and 7-15 have been removed for today's reading but can be read in full in Matthew chapter 1.*

Meditation

Isaiah 11:1-10

***Oh Christmas tree, how lovely is your branch!***

A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together, and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear will graze together, and their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the cattle. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

*After the sermon, please stand and sing:*

## Sung response

## 942 Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989

Text and tune: Public domain

*Be seated.*

## Offering

### Musical Offering

*After the offering, please stand.*

## Evening Prayer

In the name of God the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

## Blessing

The grace of our + Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## Closing hymn

320:4-7 As Angels Joyed with One Accord

In every age – let praise abound – he comes; we hear his voice resound.  
His glorious gospel does not cease to bring us comfort, joy, and peace.

He comes in water to the child and cleanses it, from birth defiled.  
This washing seals his pard'ning grace and shows the Father's kindly face.

He comes to us in bread and wine to give himself and gifts divine.  
O praise him for this sacrament, redeeming love's great testament!

Lift up your heads! All grief and pain shall vanish when he comes again.  
Where we shall see him face to face, there joy alone shall have a place.

## Post-service music

## Acknowledgements

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®), Copyright © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Advent series content and graphics adapted from material created by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Madison, Wisconsin. Materials may be subject to copyright and are utilized here under rules for Fair Use.

"From Heav'n Above" Linda Moeller, copyright 2006 NPH.

## Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Christopher Pflughoeft

Piano

Kurt Rosenbaum

Choir (3:30 p.m.)

Grades 1-4

Oboe

Rachel Severeid

Video streamer and slides

Ryan Pufahl, Chris Wempner

Video captions

Angie Keezer

Sound

Wes Wightman



## Ushers for Midweek Advent

3:30 p.m.

Craig Kiecker, Lon Meyer

6:30 p.m.

## This week at Emmanuel

### Thursday

Bible study	6:00 a.m.
	<i>Attitude Adjustment (Book of Philippians)</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.

### Friday

ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
Troy Pautz visitation at Tempe Mortuary	4:00-7:00 p.m.

### Saturday

Christmas invitation handout	<i>See Notes and News</i>
Troy Pautz funeral and reception at Emmanuel	10:00 a.m.

### Next Sunday, December 15

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
Public school catechism	12:00 p.m.
Children's Christmas services	2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

### Looking ahead

December 16	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Bible study in the MEC	7:40 p.m.
December 17	Church council meeting	6:00 p.m.
December 18	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	Midweek Advent services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Soup Supper	5:00 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.
December 19	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
December 20	ELS chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	12:00 p.m.
	Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas concert	7:00 p.m.
December 21	Christmas for Kids	10:00 a.m.

December 22	In-person services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Public school catechism	No class this week
December 23-January 3	Christmas break	No school
December 23	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
December 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day	Church office closed
	Christmas Day Service	9:00 a.m.
December 26	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	ASU campus ministry	No meeting this week
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class this week

## Notes and News

### **Christmas outreach**

Starting today (Wednesday, December 11), invitation bundles for Christmas worship at Emmanuel will be available in the narthex (church entrance) for people to take and distribute at their own leisure. You can use the map provided or distribute in your own neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Pflughoeft.

### **Midweek Advent worship and soup supper**

Join the pre-service sing-along to get into the holiday spirit, and let your heart soar in anticipation of welcoming our coming Savior! Our third and final Midweek Advent worship services are at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. on December 18. Between services, join us for a soup supper in the Ministry and Education Center from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### **Memorial service and reception for Troy Pautz**

On November 25 the Lord took Troy Pautz home to heaven at the age of 53 years. Visitation will be 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. this Friday, December 13, at Tempe Mortuary, and a Memorial Service will be held here at Emmanuel at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 14. May our Lord Jesus give strength and comfort to his family and friends!

If you would like to help provide desserts for the reception held on Saturday following the funeral, please contact Tina Richey at 480-540-6570. Please consider providing two to four dozen desserts (such as cookies, bars, and brownies).

## **Christmas for Kids | December 21**

On Saturday, December 21, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, we will host our annual Christmas for Kids program. Would you like to serve for this program? This will be a great opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with others. Those who are interested in serving can connect with Pastor Pflughoeft at 480-291-2928, visit [elctempe.org/C4K](http://elctempe.org/C4K) or use the provided QR code to sign-up to volunteer.



*Christmas for Kids  
volunteer sign-up*

## **Poinsettia donations**

Help beautify the church this Christmas season. Emmanuel's Ladies' Group, Women of the Word (WOW), will be selling poinsettias to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. The cost is \$15, payable either in cash or check (made out to Ladies Group). Please give your payment to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger, or the church office in an envelope marked "WOW." Please have all orders and payments in by December 15. If you have any questions, please call Karen Henriksen at 602-301-6243. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Ministry and Education Center.

## **Men of His Word Conference 2025**

Early registration is now open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your ticket now for \$100. The cost will increase to \$125 after the first of the year. The Men of His Word Conference is a gathering for godly men to be encouraged by one another and to grow together in faith through worship and Bible study. This year's theme is "Forge Ahead in Faith." Pastor Buchholz will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and there are also many breakout groups for learning and discussion. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included. Visit [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) for more information and to register.

## **Christmas celebration at Emmanuel**

You can find more information at [elctempe.org/Christmas](http://elctempe.org/Christmas).

- Sunday, Dec. 15, ELS children's service, at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 21, Christmas for Kids, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24, Lessons and Carols, at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24, Candlelight services, at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship, at 9:00 a.m.

We will also give thanks to the Lord for another year of his grace at our **New Year's Eve** worship:

- Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

- Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

# About Us

**E**mmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

**Pastor Gary A. Pufahl**

[gpufahl@elctempe.org](mailto:gpufahl@elctempe.org)

(480) 344-3781

**Pastor Jon D. Buchholz**

[jonbuchholz@msn.com](mailto:jonbuchholz@msn.com)

(602) 377-1915

**Pastor Daniel D. Pautz**

[danpautz7@gmail.com](mailto:danpautz7@gmail.com)

(480) 766-2994

**Pastor Christopher M. Pflughoeft**

[christopher.pflughoeft@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.pflughoeft@gmail.com)

(480) 291-2928

**Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma**

[church@elctempe.org](mailto:church@elctempe.org)

(480) 967-3983

**Principal Craig Kiecker**

[ckiecker@elstempe.org](mailto:ckiecker@elstempe.org)

(623) 313-5614

**Music Director Kevin Bode**

[kbode@elstempe.org](mailto:kbode@elstempe.org)

(480) 694-3532

**Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer**

[treasurer@elctempe.org](mailto:treasurer@elctempe.org)

(480) 344-3783

**School Secretary Erin Hahnke**

[school@elstempe.org](mailto:school@elstempe.org)

(480) 967-3991

**E**mmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

*715 West Southern Avenue  
Tempe, Arizona 85282*

*(480) 967-3983 church • (480) 967-3991 school  
church@elctempe.org  
www.elctempe.org*

